

MEM

- Melting* into tears, the pious man
Deplor'd to find a fight.
3. To be dissolved; to lose substance.
Whether are they vanish'd?
Into the air: and what seem'd corporal
Melted as breath into the wind. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*
Beauty is a witch,
Against whose charms faith melteth into blood. *Shakespeare.*
4. To be subdued by affliction.
My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me. *Psal.*
MELTER. *n. f.* [from *melt*.] One that melts metals.
Miso and Mopla, like a couple of foreswat melters, were
getting the pure silver of their bodies out of the ore of their
garments. *Sidney, b. ii.*
This the author attributes to the remissness of the former
melters, in not exhausting the ore. *Dorham's Physico-Theol.*
MELTINGLY. *adv.* [from *melting*.] Like something melting.
Zelmane lay upon a bank, with her face so bent over Ladon,
that her tears falling into the water, one might have
thought she began meltingly to be metamorphosed to the running
river. *Sidney, b. ii.*
MELTVEL. *n. f.* A kind of fish.
MEMBER. *n. f.* [*membre*, French; *membrum*, Latin.]
1. A limb; a part appendant to the body.
The tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things.
Jam. iii. 5.
2. A part of a discourse or period; a head; a clause.
Where the respondent limits or distinguishes any proposition,
the opponent must prove his own proposition according to that
member of the distinction in which the respondent denied it.
Watts's Improvement of the Mind.
3. Any part of an integral.
In poetry as in architecture, not only the whole but the
principal members, and every part of them, should be great.
Addison's Spect. N. 267.
4. One of a community.
My going to demand justice upon the five members, my
enemies loaded with obloquies. *King Charles.*
Mean as I am, yet have the Muses made
Me free, a member of the tuneful trade. *Dryden.*
Sienna is adorned with many towers of brick, which, in
the time of the commonwealth, were erected to such of the
members as had done any considerable service to their country.
Addison on Italy.
MEMBRANE. *n. f.* [*membrana*, Fr. *membrana*, Latin.]
A membrane is a web of several sorts of fibres, interwoven
together for the covering and wrapping up some parts: the
fibres of the membranes give them an elasticity, whereby they
can contract, and closely grasp, the parts they contain, and
their nervous fibres give them an exquisite sense, which is
the cause of their contraction; they can, therefore, scarcely
suffer the sharpness of medicines, and are difficultly united
when wounded. *Quincy.*
The chorion, a thick membrane obscuring the formation,
the dam doth after tear asunder. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
They obstacle find none
Of membrane, joint, or limb, exclusive bars:
Easier than air with air, if spirits embrace,
Total they mix. *Milton.*
The inner membrane that involved the several liquors of
the egg remained unbroken. *Boyle.*
MEMBRANACEOUS. *adj.* [*membranaceus*, Fr. from *membrana*,
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Lute strings, which are made of the membranous parts of
the guts strongly wreathed, swell so much as to break in wet
weather. *Boyle.*
Great conceits are raised of the involution or membranous
covering called the filly-hov. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
Such birds as are carnivorous have no gizzard, or muscular,
but a membranous stomach; that kind of food being torn
into small flakes by the beak, may be easily concocted by a
membranous stomach. *Ray on Creation.*
Anyone substances, which take off contractions of the
membranous parts, are diuretick. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*
Birds of prey have membranaceous, not muscular stomachs.
Arbutnot on Aliments.
MEMENTO. *n. f.* [Latin.] A memorial notice; a hint to
awaken the memory.
Our gracious master, for his learning and piety, is not
only a precedent to his own subjects, but to foreign princes;
yet he is still but a man, and seasonable memento's may be
useful. *Bacon's Advice to Villiers.*
Is not the frequent spectacle of other peoples deaths a memento
sufficient to make you think of your own? *L'Estrange.*
MEMOIR. *n. f.* [*memoire*, French.]
1. An account of transactions familiarly written.
Be our great master's future charge
To write his own memoirs, and leave his heirs
High schemes of government and plans of wars. *Prior.*
2. Hint; notice; account of any thing.

MEM

- There is not in any author a computation of the revenues
of the Roman empire, and hardly any memoirs from whence
it might be collected. *Arbutnot on Coins.*
MEMORABLE. *adj.* [*immorabile*, Fr. *memorabilis*, Lat.] Wor-
thy of memory; not to be forgotten.
Nothing I so much delight to recount, as the memorable
friendship that grew betwixt the two princes.
From this desire, that main desire proceeds,
Which all men have furviving fame to gain,
By tombs, by books, by memorable deeds,
For the that this desires doth still remain.
Dares Ulysses for the prize contend,
In sight of what he durst not once defend;
But basely fled that memorable day,
When I from Hector's hands redeem'd the flaming prey.
Dryden's Ovid.
MEMORABLY. *adv.* [from *memorable*.] In a manner worthy of
memory.
MEMORANDUM. *n. f.* [Latin.] A note to help the me-
mory.
I resolved to new pave every street within the liberties, and
entered a memorandum in my pocket-book accordingly.
Guardian, N^o. 166.
Nature's fair table-book, our tender souls,
We scrawl all o'er with old and empty rules,
Stale memorandums of the schools. *Swift's Miscel.*
MEMORIAL. *adj.* [*memorial*, Fr. *memorialis*, Latin.]
1. Prefervative of memory.
Thy master now lies thinking in his bed
Of thee and me, and sighs, and takes my glove,
And gives memorial dainty kisses to it. *Shakespeare.*
May I, at the conclusion of a work, which is a kind of
monument of Pope's partiality to me, place the following
lines as an inscription memorial of it.
The tomb with many arms and trophies raise;
There high in air memorial of my name
Fix the smooth oar, and bid me live to fame. *Pope.*
2. Contained in memory.
The case is the same with the memorial possessions of the
greatest part of mankind: a few useful things mixed with
many trifles fill up their memories. *Watts.*
MEMORIAL. *n. f.*
1. A monument; something to preserve memory.
All churches have had their names; some as memorials of
peace, some of wisdom, some in memory of the trinity itself,
some of Christ under sundry titles; of the blessed Virgin not
a few; many of one apostle, faint, or martyr; many of all.
Hooker.
A memorial unto Israel, that no stranger offer incense be-
fore the Lord. *Nim. xvi. 43.*
All the laws of this kingdom have some monuments or
memorials thereof in writing, yet all of them have not their
original in writing; for some of those laws have obtained
their force by immemorial usage. *Halt.*
In other parts like deeds deserv'd
Memorial, where the might of Gabriel fought. *Milton.*
Reflect upon a clear, unblotted, acquitting conscience, and
feed upon the ineffable comforts of the memorial of a con-
quered temptation. *South's Sermons.*
Medals are so many monuments consigned over to eterni-
ty, that may last when all other memorials of the same age
are worn out or lost. *Addison on ancient Medals.*
2. Hint to assist the memory.
He was a prince sad, serious, and full of thoughts and se-
cret observations, and full of notes and memorials of his own
hand touching persons. *Bacon's Henry VII.*
Memorials written with king Edward's hand shall be the
ground of this history. *Hayward.*
MEMORIALIST. *n. f.* [from *memorial*.] One who writes me-
morials.
I must not omit a memorial setting forth, that the memo-
rialist had, with great dispatch, carried a letter from a cer-
tain lord to a certain lord. *Spectator, N^o. 629.*
MEMORIZE. *v. a.* [from *memoria*.] To record; to commit to
memory by writing.
They neglect to memorize their conquest of the Indians,
especially in those times in which the fame was supposed.
Spenser on Ireland.
Let their names that were bravely lost be rather memo-
rized in the full table of time; for my part, I love no ambi-
tious pains in an eloquent description of miseries. *Watson.*
MEMORY. *n. f.* [*memoire*, Fr. *memoria*, Latin.]
1. The power of retaining or recollecting things past; reten-
tion; reminiscence; recollection.
Memory is the power to revive again in our minds those
ideas which after imprinting have disappeared, or have been
laid aside out of sight. *Locke.*
The memory is perpetually looking back, when we have no-
thing present to entertain us: it is like those repositories in
animals that are filled with stores of food, on which they may
ruminant, when their present pasture fails. *Addison's Spectator.*
2. Exemption

MEN

2. Exemption from oblivion.
That ever-living man of memory,
Henry the Fifth! *Shakespeare's Henry VI.*
3. Time of knowledge.
Thy request think now fulfill'd, that ask'd
How first this world, and face of things, began,
And what, before thy memory, was done. *Milton.*
4. Memorial; monumental record.
Be better suited;
These weeds are memories of those worse hours:
I pray thee put them off. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*
A swan in memory of Cygnus shines;
The mourning sisters weep in wat'ry signs. *Addison.*
5. Reflection; attention. Not in use.
When Duncan is asleep, his two chamberlains
Will I with wine and waffle so convince,
That memory, the warder of the brain,
Shall be a fume. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*
MEN, the plural of man.
Wits live obscurely men know not how; or die obscurely
men mark not when. *Ascham.*
For men, there are to be considered the valour and num-
ber: the old observation is not untrue, that the Spaniards va-
lour lieth in the eye of the looker-on; but the English va-
lour lieth about the soldiers heart. *Bacon's War with Spain.*
He thought fit that the king's affairs should entirely be con-
ducted by the soldiers and men of war. *Clarendon, b. viii.*
MEN-PLASER. *n. f.* [*men* and *plaser*.] One too careful to
please others.
Servants be obedient to them that are your masters: not
with eye-service, as men-pleasers; but as the servants of Christ,
doing the will of God from the heart. *Eph. vi. 6.*
To MENACE. *v. a.* [*menacer*, Fr.] To threaten; to threat.
Who ever knew the heavens menace so? *Shakespeare.*
Your eyes do menace me: why look you pale?
Who sent you hither? *Shakespeare's Richard III.*
My master knows not but I am gone hence,
And fearfully did menace me with death,
If I did stay to look on his intents. *Shakespeare.*
From this league
Peep'd harms that menace'd him. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*
What should he do? 'Twas death to go away,
And the god menace'd if he dar'd to stay. *Dryden's Fables.*
MENACE. *n. f.* [*menace*, Fr. from the verb.] Threat.
He that would not believe the menace of God at first, it
may be doubted whether, before an ocular example, he be-
lieved the curse at last. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. i.*
The Trojans view the dusky cloud from far,
And the dark menace of the distant war. *Dryden's Aeneis.*
MENACER. *n. f.* [*menaceur*, Fr. from *menace*.] A threatener;
one that threatens.
Hence menace! nor tempt me into rage:
This roof protects thy rashness. But begone! *Philips.*
MENAGE. *n. f.* [French.] A collection of animals.
I saw here the largest menage that I met with any-where.
Addison on Italy.
MENAGOCUE. *n. f.* [*μεναγοκυε* and *κυε*.] A medicine that pro-
motes the flux of the menses.
To MEND. *v. a.* [*mendo*, Latin.]
1. To repair from breach or decay.
They gave the money to the workmen to repair and mend
the house. *2 Chron. xxxiv. 10.*
2. To correct; to alter for the better.
The best service they could do to the state, was to mend
the lives and manners of the persons who composed it.
Temple's Miscel.
You need not despair, by the assistance of his growing
reason, to master his timorousness, and mend the weakness of
his constitution. *Locke on Education.*
Though in some lands the grass is but short, yet it mends
garden herbs and fruit. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*
Their opinion of Wood, and his project, is not mended.
Swift.
3. To help; to advance.
Whatever is new is unlooked for; and ever it mends some,
and impairs others: and he that is helped takes it for a for-
tune, and he that is hurt for a wrong. *Bacon.*
If, to avoid succession in eternal existence, they recur to
the punctum flans of the schools, they will thereby very little
mend the matter, or help us to a more positive idea of infinite
duration. *Locke.*
4. To improve; to increase.
Death comes not at all; justice divine
Mends not her slowest pace, for pray'r, or cries. *Milton.*
When upon the sands the traveller,
Sees the high sea come rolling from afar,
The land grow short, he mends his weary pace,
While death behind him covers all the place. *Dryden.*
He saw the monster mend his pace; he springs,
As terror had increas'd his feet with wings. *Dryden.*
To MEND. *v. n.* To grow better; to advance in any good;
to be changed for the better.

MEN

- Name a new play and he's the poet's friend;
Nay, show'd his faults—but when wou'd poets mend?
Pope's Essay on Criticism.
MENDABLE. *adj.* [from *mend*.] Capable of being mended. A
low word.
MENDACITY. *n. f.* [from *mendax*, Latin.] Falschood.
In this delivery there were additional mendacities; for
the commandment forbid not to touch the fruit, and po-
sitively said, Ye shall surely die; but she, extenuating, re-
plied, Left ye die. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. i.*
MENDER. *n. f.* [from *mend*.] One who makes any change for
the better.
What trade art thou? A trade that I may use with a safe
conscience; a mender of bad souls. *Shakespeare's Julius Caesar.*
MENDICANT. *adj.* [*mendicans*, Latin.] Begging; poor to a
state of beggary.
Be not righteous over-much, is applicable to those who,
out of an excess of zeal, practise mortifications, whereby
they macerate their bodies; or to those who voluntarily re-
duce themselves to a poor, and perhaps mendicant, state.
Fiddes's Sermons.
MENDICANT. *n. f.* [*mendicant*, Fr.] A beggar; one of some
begging fraternity in the Romish church.
To MENDICATE. *v. n.* [*mendicare*, Lat. *mendier*, Fr.] To beg;
to ask alms.
MENDICITY. *n. f.* [*mendicitas*, Lat. *mendicité*, Fr.] The life
of a beggar.
MENDS for amends.
Let her be as she is: If she be fair, 'tis the better for her;
and if she be not, she has the mends in her own hands. *Shak.*
MENIAL. *adj.* [from *menius* or *many*; *menis*, Saxon, or *menie*,
old French.]
1. Belonging to the retinue, or train of servants.
Two menial dogs before their master pres'd;
Thus clad, and guarded thus, he seeks his kingly guest.
Dryden's Aeneis.
2. Swift seems not to have known the meaning of this word.
The women attendants perform only the most menial of-
fices. *Gulliver's Travels.*
MENIAL. *n. f.* One of the train of servants.
MENINGES. *n. f.* [*meninges*, Fr.] The meninges are the two mem-
branes that envelope the brain, which are called the pia ma-
ter and dura mater; the latter being the exterior involucrum,
is, from its thickness, so denominated. *Dié.*
The brain being exposed to the air groweth fluid, and is
thrusted forth by the contraction of the meninges. *Wise.*
MENOLGY. *n. f.* [*μενολογιον*; *menologe*, French.] A register
of months.
In the Roman martyrology we find, at one time, many
thousand martyrs destroyed by Dioclesian: the menology faith
they were twenty thousand. *Stillingfleet.*
MENOW. *n. f.* commonly *minnow*. A fish. *Swift.*
MENSA. *adj.* [*mensalis*, Lat.] Belonging to the table; trans-
acted at table. A word yet scarcely naturalized.
Conversation either mental or mensal. *Clarissa.*
MENSTRUAL. *adj.* [*menstrual*, Fr. *menstruus*, Latin.]
1. Monthly; happening once a month; lasting a month.
She turns all her globe to the sun, by moving in her men-
strual orb, and enjoys night and day alternately, one day of
her's being equal to about fourteen days and nights of ours.
Bentley's Sermons.
2. Pertaining to a menstruum. [*menstruus*, Fr.]
The distills of the menstrual or strong waters hinder the
incorporation, as well as those of the metal. *Bacon.*
MENSTRUOUS. *adj.* [*menstruus*, Lat.] Having the catamenia.
O thou of late beloved,
Now like a menstruous woman art remov'd. *Sandys's Par.*
Many, from being women, have proved men at the first
point of their menstrual eruptions. *Brown.*
MENSTRUUM. *n. f.* [This name probably was derived from
some notion of the old chemists about the influence of the
moon in the preparation of dissolvents.]
All liquors are called menstrua which are used as dissol-
vents, or to extract the virtues of ingredients by infusion, de-
coction.
Inquire what is the proper menstruum to dissolve metal, what
will touch upon the one and not upon the other, and what
several menstrua will dissolve any metal. *Bacon's Physical Rem.*
White metalline bodies must be excepted, which, by rea-
son of their excessive density, seem to reflect almost all the
light incident on their first superficies, unless by solution in
they become transparent. *Newton's Opticks.*
MENSTRUABILITY. *n. f.* [*menstruabilitas*, French.] Capacity of
being measured.
MENSTRUABLE. *adj.* [*mensura*, Latin.] Measurable; that may
be measured.
We measure our time by law and not by nature. The so-
lar month is no periodical motion, and not easily mensurable,
and the months unequal among themselves, and not to be
measured by even weeks or days. *Holder.*